

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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SUBJECT: TWO MAJOR PARTIES OUTLINE GOALS FOR 96TH NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY

REF: SEOUL 7329

BEGIN SUMMARY: SINCE SEPTEMBER 20 OPENING OF 96TH NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY, GOVERNMENT PARTIES HAVE GENERALLY RESTRICTED PUBLIC
PRONOUNCEMENTS TO PLATITUDES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROPOSED
SCHEDULING AND ORGANIZING. NDP PRIORITY WILL BE IN AREA OF
AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING RATHER THAN OPPOSING BUDGET HEAD-ON
AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS. ALTHOUGH PROMISING RESTORATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AS PRIMARY TARGET ON SEPTEMBER 20, NDP'S YI
CHOL-SUNG BACKED OFF FOLLOWING DAY, SAYING THAT PEOPLE'S
FREEDOMS IN ROK DID HAVE "CERTAIN LIMITS." END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST DAYS OF 96TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WHICH OPENED
SEPTEMBER 20 HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL AND LARGELY
DEVOTED TO SCHEDULING AND ORGANIZING. DRP ANNOUNCEMENTS
OPENING DAY EMPHASIZED PARTY'S DIGNITY AND USELESSNESS OF
INTER-PARTY QUARRELS, NOTING ALSO THAT ATTENTION THIS SESSION
WOULD CENTER ON PASSAGE OF FY 1977 BUDGET. IN HIS KEYNOTE
ADDRESS SPEAKER CHONG IL KWON PICKED AS HIS THEME NATIONAL
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UNITY AGAINST THREAT FROM NORTH AND NECESSITY FOR ASSEMBLY TO

BE FREE OF CORRUPTION.

2. MAIN ASSEMBLY PREOCCUPATIONS SO FAR HAVE BEEN FINAL SCHEDULING, FORMULATION OF BUDGET SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE, AND REPORTING ON WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO NATION IN INTERMIM SINCE LAST SESSION. ASSEMBLY PLANS RECESS ON SEPTEMBER 25 IN ORDER FOR STANDING COMMITTEES TO MEET BUT PLENARY SESSION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN AGAIN BY OCTOBER 2. ON OCTOBER 5, ROKG WILL BEGIN TO EXPLAIN BUDGET BILL AND INTERPELLATIONS WILL BE HELD FROM OCTOBER 6 THROUGH OCTOBER 11. (NDP HAS REQUESTED TWO ADDITIONAL DAYS). SCHEDULE BEYOND OCTOBER 11 NOT YET AGREED BETWEEN PARTY LEADERS BUT WILL LARGELY BE DEVOTED TO BUDGET MATTERS.

3. FOR ITS PART OPPOSITION NDP HAS GIVEN FURTHER INDICATION IT WILL CONTINUE MODERATE APPROACH. ON SEPTEMBER 20, NEWLY ELECTED NDP SENIOR SUPREME COMMITTEEMAN YI CHOL-SUNG ANNOUNCED TO PRESS THAT HIS PARTY WOULD DO BEST TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT RATHER THAN REJECT ROKG PROPOSED BUDGET PLAN ENTIRELY. PRIME TARTET FOR NDP DURING SESSION HE SAID WAS TO RESTORE BASIC RIGHTS TO PEOPLE, ADDING THAT FREE DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL ISSUES IS AN INDISPENSABLE CONDITION FOR UNITY FOR PEOPLE. HE THEN CRITICIZED DRP FOR SAYING IT INTENDED TO RESTRICT REMARKS ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR HARMFUL TO ROK POLITICAL SYSTEM AND NATIONAL SECURITY. (REF).

4. BY FOLLOWING DAY, HOWEVER, YI TOLD CAUCUS ON NDP LEGISLATION THAT THERE SHOULD BE "CERTAIN LIMIT" TO FREEDOMS OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN TURBULENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. YI SAID OPPOSITION COULD NOT DENY PRESENT NATIONAL POLITICAL SYSTEM AS "WE ARE PARTICIPATING IN SYSTEM. WE SHOULD NOT DENY YUSHIN (REVITALIZING REFORMS) BUT TRY TO IMPROVE UPON IT." YI ALSO REPEATED NDP TACTICAL PLAN TO CONCENTRATE ON REDUCTION OF "TAX BURDEN ON PUBLIC", WARNING DRP THAT TO DENY NDP ROLE IN POLITICAL SYSTEM DENIES VERY EXISTENCE OF A LEGISLATURE. EMBASSY SOURCES SAY IT'S SOFTENING LINE CAME AFTER PRELIMINARY MEETINGS WITH DRP LEADERSHIP.

5. NDP SPOKESMEN CLAIM THAT OTHER MAJOR ISSUES TO BE COVERED IN INTERPELLATION INCLUDE: (A) FOREIGN AFFAIRS; (B) NORTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KOREAN LEADERSHIP POWER STRUGGLE; (C) RED CHINA IN WAKE OF MAO'S DEATH; (D) RESULTS OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND UN SESSION; AND (E) CHOSEN SOREN ACTIVITIES (BY PRO-NORTH KOREAN-BORN CITIZENS IN JAPAN. ON MILITARY SIDE, NDP HAS VOWED TO: (A) EXPLORE NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AREAS; (B) LOOK AT PANMUNJOM INCIDENT; AND (C) DISCUSS US, JAPAN, AND USSR RELATIONS. IN ECONOMIC AREA NDP WISHES TO EXAMINE: (A) FOURTH 5 YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN;

(B) TAX REFORM; (C) DRILLING FOR KOREAN OIL SUPPLIES; AND
(D) EFFECTS OF FOOD AND AIR POLLUTION. NDP WILL ALSO
DISCUSS NEED FOR RESTORATION OF HABEAS CORPUS PROVISION.

6. MOST NOTABLE FEATURE OF ASSEMBLY SO FAR AND THE FOCUS
OF MOST OBSERVERS ATTENTION HAS BEEN YI CHOL-SUNG'S
APPROACH TO HIS NEW JOB. IN ADDITION TO SETTING EXPECTED
MODERATE COURSE VIS A VIS GOVERNMENT, HE HAS ALSO BEEN
PHOTOGRAPHED WITH KIM YONG-SAM AT "PRIVATE LUNCHEON" AND
IN MEETINGS WITH OTHER NDP LEADERS, BUSILY WORKING OBVIOUSLY
TO HEAL PARTY WOUNDS AND ENLIST FACTIONS TO SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS.
DESCRIBING HIS OWN EFFORTS, HE SOUNDS OPTIMISTIC, BUT HE HAS
AN UNENVIABLE JOB. MOREOVER, THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF PEOPLE
IN THE NDP, NOT TO MENTIONA THE GOVERNMENT, WHO REMAIN
UNLIKELY TO OFFER HIM MUCH HELP.
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